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November 14, 1959

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John E.
The Honorable Ezra Taft Benson
Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ezra:

I very much appreciate your giving me the opportunity of reading your article on religion as you had observed it in Russia. It is a very fine article and I do not believe it can be in any way interpreted to hinder the President's opportunity for improved relations with the Russian government.

It may be of interest to you that Mr. Khrushchev, in referring to the Camp David Spirit, made it clear that he did not mean "ideological disarmament." Your article states simply and effectively that all of us must indeed retain and build up our "ideological armament."

With best wishes.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

STAT
Enclosure
DDP/ACPP [] mlt 13 Nov 59

Rewritten AWD:at

Orig - Addressee

1 cc - DCI

1 cc - ER *✓ by basic*

1 cc - DD/P

1 cc - ACPP

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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It was very kind of you to permit me to read the article before it is printed.

With best wishes,

*Sincerely,
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Hon. Ezra Taft Benson
The Secretary of Agriculture

DDP/ACPE [redacted] :mlt (13 Nov. 1959)

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Orig. - Addressee

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1 - DDP 1 - ACPP